

Hamilton County Commissioners' Meeting
P.O. Box 1167
Syracuse, KS 67878
Meeting Place—Commissioner Room
Hamilton County Courthouse
April 8, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Keith A. Puckett, Chairman
John R. Simon, Vice-Chairman
Randall C. Braddock, Commissioner
Michael Lewis, Commissioner
Nikki Schwerdfeger, Commissioner
Rob Gale, Attorney
Angie Moser, County Clerk

Commissioner Puckett called the Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with all Commissioners present.

AGENDA: Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

PRIOR MINUTES: Commissioner Simon moved to approve the April 1, 2014 Commissioner Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was approved with four “ayes” and one abstention.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: None.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Beth Beavers, Community Corrections Directors, presented their fiscal year 2015 Comprehensive Plan and Budget. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the Community Corrections 2015 Comprehensive Plan and Budget as presented. Commissioner Schwerdfeger seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

LIBRARY BOARD AND STAFF: Joyce Armstrong, Hamilton County Library Director, Amy Brucker, Teen Services Director, and Larry Ochs Hamilton County Library Board Member, discussed the following:

- 1) Results from the Community Café meeting and possible services for the future.
- 2) Reviewed 2013 expenses.
- 3) Reviewed 2014 Employee Benefit Levy and 2014 Proposed Budget.
- 4) Library Board is requesting an increase of 1.5 mills taxes levied for operating the Library for a total tax levied not to exceed 4 mills.

ED BAKER: Mr. Baker, Rural Fire Chief, was informed by the Commission that Dusty Dowd requested he be reimbursed for his fuel when he assists with any fires. Mr. Baker and the Commission agreed to pay Mr. Dowd for his fuel. Commissioner Schwerdfeger discussed the possibility of recouping the County’s costs of the fires caused by unauthorized burning. Mr. Baker also advised the County worker’s comp insurance inspected the Rural Fire buildings.

SONNY RUNDELL: Mr. Rundell, Hamilton County’s Representative to the Silver Hair Legislature, asked the Commissioners if they had any issues they wanted him to present to the Silver Legislature Group. The Group is currently discussing a cap on the amount of property tax the elderly pay and limiting the interest and fees on payday loans. The Commissioners asked Mr. Rundell to inquire about the KDOT limits and restrictions on the usage of the vans at the VIP Center.

BRYAN COFFEE: Mr. Coffee, Hamilton County Hospital Administrator, discussed that the Hospital Board is exploring the possibility of a proposed replacement hospital and long term care facility. This would be partly new construction and partly remodeling with an approximate cost of 14 mills for 25 years. A new facility would require hiring more staff which would boost the local economy and also increase the Medicare cost report reimbursement.

KENNY SMITH: Mr. Smith, Hamilton County EMS Director, and Commissioner Lewis discussed different options of hiring an additional EMS employee to assist with the Director’s duties.

5-YEAR PLAN: The 5-year plan was reviewed.

ROAD PROJECT LIST: The Road Project List was reviewed.

BUREAU OF LAND MGT AGREEMENT: Commissioner Schwerdfeger discussed the Agreement sent by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting Hamilton County be a Cooperating Agency. The BLM has begun an Environmental Impact Statement project to analyze lands and minerals under the jurisdiction in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Commissioner Schwerdfeger moved to sign the KNRC’s letter to ask the Bureau of Land Management to allow Hamilton County to be a Coordinating Agency vs. Cooperating Agency. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion. The Motion passed with four “ayes” and one “nay”. Commissioner Lewis moved that Hamilton County participate in the Memorandum of Understanding submitted by the Bureau of Land Management. Commissioner Puckett seconded the Motion. Motion passed with three “ayes” and two “nays”.

Commissioner Simon left the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: The County Clerk presented a copy of a Hold Harmless Agreement that was prepared by KCAMP, the County’s liability insurance. The Agreement releases all liability to the County for temporary use of County property or a County Building.

WARRANTS: After review and discussion, Commissioner Puckett moved to approve the Warrants in the amount of \$130,850.30. Commissioner Braddock seconded the Motion and it was unanimously approved.

HOSPITAL NO-FUND WARRANTS: None.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Commissioner Lewis informed he is no longer on the Kansas Board of EMS.

As there was no more business to come before the meeting, Commissioner Braddock moved for adjournment. Commissioner Lewis seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

County Clerk

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner